

## THE WINTER OF 1861.

Coldest of the Nineteenth Century in New England.

The winter of 1861 was noted for being one of the coldest, and, in fact, it was the coldest one, in the century. The coldest day of the winter was Friday, Feb. 23, and is known as cold Friday. There had been a heavy storm of light, fine snow. It cleared off cold, and the wind blew a perfect gale, thus making the cold more fearful. The air was filled with snow so thick one could see only a rod or two in any direction. Men who were obliged to be on the road perished and were found frozen as hard as marble statues. A very few travelers survived the ordeal. But few had thermometers in those days to tell how cold it really was, but what few there were registered 40 to 50 below zero in Androscoggin, and in Aroostook county it was even lower. Penobscot bay was frozen over so solid that Sam Randall of Vinalhaven took a horse and sleigh and, together with the Hon. Martin Kiff, who was the representative to the legislature from Vinalhaven, cruised from Vinalhaven to North Haven, then to Saddle Island, then to Camden and thence across country to Augusta, where he left Kiff and returned to Vinalhaven again safely. Portland harbor and Boston harbor were frozen over solid. Thousands of the Boston people availed themselves of the fact, and the ice on the harbor was covered with skaters.—Lewiston Journal.

## GRINNING MATCHES.

An Accepted Form of Sport in Early English Days.

That grinning matches were an accepted form of sport in early English days is shown by an advertisement announcing a gold ring to be grinned for by men on Oct. 9 at the Swan, Colleshill Heath, in Warwickshire, which appeared in the Post-Boy of Sept. 11 and 17, 1711, supplemented by the suggestion that all the country fellows within ten miles of the Swan should grin an hour or two in their glasses every morning in order to qualify themselves for this extraordinary competition.

Addison gives a detailed account of one of these "controversies of faces," telling us that the audience unanimously bestowed the ring on a cobbler, who "produced several new grins of his own invention, having been used to cut faces for many years together over his last."

His performance was something like this: "At the very first grin he cast every human feature out of his countenance; at the second he simulated the face of a spout, at the third that of a balloon, at the fourth the head of a bass viol and at the fifth a pair of nut crackers." Addison adds that a comely woman, whom he had wooed in vain for more than five years, was so charmed with his grins that she married him the following week, the cobbler using the prize as his wedding ring.

## UNDER THE ROSE.

The Term Which Stands as the Symbol of Closed Lips.

Sir T. Browne, in his "Inquiries Into Vulgar Errors," dated 1646, says of the old phrase sub rosa. "The expression is commendable, if the rose from any natural property may be the symbol of silence," and goes on to quote some Latin lines which represent the rose-bud folded in its sheath as an emblem of closed lips.

He also speaks of the secrecy to be observed "in society and comotation, from the ancient custom in Symposium meetings to wear chaplets of roses about their heads."

Others derive the expression from the fable that Cupid gave a rose to Harpocrates, the god of silence, as a bribe to prevent the disclosure of the amours of Venus.

There are many records of roses carved upon ceilings in early and in more modern times as reminders to guests that words spoken in convivial moments should not be repeated.

It is said that in 1526 roses consecrated by the pope were placed over the confessionals in Rome to denote secrecy.

## Face Powder in Cuba.

In Cuba there has never apparently been any dearth of face powder even among the lowliest. The Cuban woman, octogenarian as well as "sweet seventeen," considers powder a more necessary article of the toilet than soap and water and utterly indispensable to her attractiveness, which it is her absolute duty to preserve. All classes of the community are devoted to the powder puff, from the little six-year-old orphan in the asylum to the lady of high degree. In any Cuban school teachers and pupils are alike unsparingly powdered, and a powder box is to be found in every desk and as likely as not keeping company with the chalk used for the blackboard.

## The Wax in the Moon.

Probably even in prehistoric times men have noticed the face of the "maiden in the moon." Plutarch noticed it and even wrote a whole book about the face in the moon. But, besides this, many other objects are supposed to be visible. The dark markings on the surface are likened by the Chinese to a monkey pounding rice. In India they are said to resemble a rabbit. To the Persians they seem like the earth's oceans and continents reflected in a mirror.

## Addendum.

Kroger—He thinks he's still youth. Well, you know the old saying, "There's no fool like an old fool." Now, if you, when an old fool dyes his whiskers there's nobody fooled but the old fool.—Philadelphia Press.

He who thinks for himself and rarely imitates is a free man.—Klopstock.

Have an Aim in Life.

Have you no aim in life? Then get one. Study over what it shall be—think, and think deeply. Pray that you may have an understanding of your work in the world, that you may see your beckoning star and that a knowledge may come to you of how to build a highway to it. The materials and tools for the building of this highway lie right at hand. They are not to your liking perhaps—you may not to your trouble and bad luck—but just shut your teeth together, shut your eyes, too, if necessary, and hold your breath. Then get a good grip on the situation, and then work with it. And the wonders that will grow out of doing little things well and the understanding of many things that will come to you will make you "stand amazed." Indeed.—Maxwell's Talmans.

## A Singular Creature.

One of the most singular looking creatures that ever walked the earth or "swam the waters under the earth" is the world famous man faced crab of Japan. Its body is hardly an inch in length, yet the head is fitted with a face which is the exact counterpart of a Chinese cooly—a veritable missing link, with eyes, nose and mouth all clearly defined. This curious and uncanny creature, besides the great likeness it bears to a human being in the face, is provided with two legs, which seem to grow from the top of its head and hang down over the side of its face.

## Brides Who Perch in Trees.

Among the Loios of western China it is customary for the bride on the wedding morning to perch herself on the highest branch of a large tree while the elder female members of her family cluster on the lower limbs armed with sticks. When all are duly stationed the bridegroom clambers up the tree, assailed on all sides by blows, pushes and pinches from the dowagers, and it is not until he has broken through their fence and captured the bride that he is allowed to carry her off.

## Her Sorrow.

One of the closest friends of Princess Mathilde was Count Benedetti, the French ambassador whom the king of Prussia was said to have insulted at Ems. Her words on hearing of his death, after he had been her intimate counselor for more than forty years, are worth recalling. "Alas," she said, "now there is no one left who will dare to contradict me."

## She Understood.

Mr. Misfit—It's no use trying to explain things to a woman. She can't understand scientific terms. No, there is—Mrs. Misfit—Oh, yes, I can, Charles! Heredity is what a man blames his father and mother for, and environment is what he blames his wife and children for.—Chicago Record.

## BLACK SPOTS

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## Rhinoceros and Tapir.

The rhinoceros and the tapir, both found frequently in the tertiary deposits, are still represented by almost identical forms. One species at least of the rhinoceros survived unchanged long after the appearance of man. Their range extended as far north as Siberia, and their bones have been found in caverns in England, France and Germany, on the banks of the Irrawaddy and at the foot of the Himalayas.

**Never Weary of the Hearing.**  
"I overheard him telling her a story last night which I know she has heard fifty times before, but she didn't stop him."  
"She is long suffering, surely."  
"Oh, I don't know. He told her she was the prettiest girl he had ever seen."—Cincinnati Times-Star.

## Making Chills Useful.

Mrs. Newred—My husband has the chills and fever, but they come in handy.  
Mrs. Oldred—How so?  
Mrs. Newred—Whenever he has a chill I put a rattle in his hand, and it amuses the baby.—Chicago Journal.

Idleness and poverty always dwell together, and misery and crime are their natural offspring.—Maxwell's

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New Figured Batiste—Pretty dotted, striped, floral and conventional designs in monotone and color—combined colorings—per yard..... 12c	Fine Novelty Scrim—With open mesh, similar to grenadine—plain colors and printed floral patterns—per yard..... 19c	The Poplin Marvelous—Handsomely finished mercerized fabric in all of the latest shades—100% lustre—per yard..... 39c
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Mercerized Stripe Lawns—Very pretty printed designs in light or dark effects—mercerized stripe effect woven through fabric—yard, 16c	Pretty Bourrette Voile—One of the newest fabrics having an open mesh—boule effect—solid color, all shades—per yard..... 25c	Pure Linen Suitings—In chambray, chambray and various other effects—all of the newest shades and colors—per yard 25c, 29c and..... 39c
Mercerized Stripe Batiste—An immense variety of printed floral patterns and conventional designs; also plain colors—per yard..... 19c	Fine Silk Spot Mulls—An extra fine light weight material in light and dark effects—handsome foulard effects—per yard..... 25c	Voile Premier Suitings—Neat and popper effects—having the appearance of woolen voile—36 inches wide—per yard..... 35c
Fine Printed Organdies—All of the season's styles in large and small designs—an exceptionally good quality—per yard..... 19c	Mercerized Oxford Cloths—Boys' suits in gray, pink, blue, green, black and navy blue shades—per yard..... 25c	New Bourrette Suitings—Richly finished mercerized bourrette—splendid quality—popular for costumes—per yard..... 49c

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